REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for the careful consideration given the present application and for granting a telephone interview. The interview occurred on January 15, 2009. The participants were Examiner April Guzman and applicants' attorney Brad Spencer. Claims 1 and 11 were discussed during the interview, along with the Goldberg, Lee and Tom references, which are cited in the outstanding Office action. Additionally, the current claim amendments were discussed during the interview.

Claims 1-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Goldberg (USPN 5,966,639) in view of Orten (WO 2003/056875) and further in view of Tom (USPN 6,690,947). Claim 1 has been amended and is discussed further below.

Claim 11 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Orten in view of Anderson (USPN 5,721,783) and further in view of Lee (USPN 6,526,287). The rejection of claim 11 was discussed during the interview of January 15. It was noted during the interview that claim 11 requires a wireless microphone with a rechargeable battery and interchangeable functional modules including a receiver module and a charging module for charging the battery. The receiver module and the charging module can be *interchangeably* operatively connected to the microphone through a coupling element. Accordingly, each module can be connected to the wireless microphone so as to physically replace the other module. For example, should the rechargeable battery become discharged, the receiver module can be disconnected from the microphone's coupling element and *replaced* with the charging module to recharge the battery. After recharging the battery, the charging module can be disconnected from the coupling element and *replaced* with the receiver module.

The Office action cites Lee's Bluetooth device for the claimed receiver module and Lee's cellular phone charger for the claimed charging module. The Bluetooth device is included in battery pack 10, which can be detached from a cellular phone (2:40-42, 3:5-9). The battery pack 10 can be recharged by the cellular phone charger (3:7-9). The battery pack 10 has a connector 13 for data communication between the Bluetooth device and the cellular phone (2:49-52).

As noted above, claim 11 requires that the receiver module and the charging module be *interchangeably* operatively connected to the wireless microphone through a coupling element. Lee does not teach that the battery pack 10 with the Bluetooth device (the cited receiver module) and cellular phone charger (the cited charging module) are *interchangeably* operatively connected to Lee's cellular phone through a coupling element. That is, Lee does not teach that the battery pack 10 with the Bluetooth device can be disconnected from the phone and replaced with the charger through a coupling element. Indeed, to recharge Lee's battery pack 10, both the battery pack and the cellular phone charger would be connected to the cellular phone simultaneously. (For example, the battery pack 10 would be attached to the phone with the charger plugged into the phone, or the phone with attached battery pack 10 would be placed into a charging cradle.) Therefore, the battery pack 10 and cellular phone charger are not capable of physically replacing each other (i.e., are not interchangeable).

As best understood by the applicants, the Office action cites Lee's connector 13 for teaching "said coupling element" through which a receiver module and a charging module can be interchangeably operatively connected to the wireless microphone. There is no suggestion in Lee that the cellular phone charger is connected to the cellular phone through connector 13. Connector 13 is for data communications between the Bluetooth device and the cellular phone.

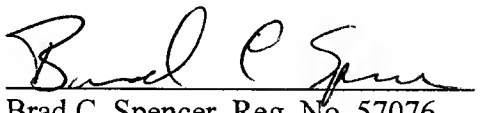
Applicants respectfully submit that the cited combination of references fails to teach a receiver module and a charging module that are interchangeably operatively connected to a wireless microphone. In view of the deficiencies of the cited references, applicants respectfully submit that claim 11 is allowable over said references.

Claim 1 has been amended and now recites, "wherein the interchangeable functional modules include a charging module for recharging the rechargeable battery and communication modules...and further wherein the charging module and the communication modules can be interchangeably operatively connected to the wireless microphone through said coupling element." The arguments provided above with respect to claim 11 also apply to claim 1. The prior art of record does not teach the above-noted limitations of claim 1. Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is allowable over the cited references. Claims 2-10 depend from claim 1.

In light of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and notice to that effect is hereby requested. If it is determined that the application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to initiate a telephone interview with the undersigned attorney to expedite prosecution of the present application.

If there are any additional fees resulting from this communication, please charge same to our Deposit Account No. 16-0820, our Order No. BOV1-36182.

Respectfully submitted,
PEARNE & GORDON, LLP

By: 
Brad C. Spencer, Reg. No. 57076

1801 East 9th Street
Suite 1200
Cleveland, Ohio 44114-3108
(216) 579-1700

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